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15 NOV 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR:

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Presidential Briefing 17 November 1977

I'm probably going to put the Soviet grain prediction situation into the Presidential Brief for Thursday. I'd like to know:

°How much, if any, world grain prices were affected by Brezhnev's announcement of 194 million tons?

°What date Brezhnev made his announcement?

°Would it have been logical for us to deduce from the fact that we knew the Soviets were going to buy 20 to 25 million tons that their harvest was going to be low, or were there other reasons such as stockpiling that they might have had in mind?

°When the United States predicts its own grain production for the year with all the data we have available to us, how accurate are we: six months in advance; three months in advance; one month in advance? In short, we missed the Soviet production by 10%; how much were we likely to have missed our own production even with better data?

°Do we think the Soviets are deliberately falsifying their weather data specifically to throw us off in this regard, or is the confusion in their hourly and daily weather reporting some other anomaly?

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STANSFIELD TURNER

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